

REMARKS

2

UPON THE

RESOLUTIONS

OF THE

House of Commons,

WITH RESPECT TO

The POOR, VAGRANTS, and
HOUSES of CORRECTION.

By a Justice of the Peace within the County of York.

L O N D O N :

PRINTED FOR WM. NICOLL, IN ST. PAUL'S
CHURCH-YARD. 1775.

[Price SIX - PENCE.]

R E M A R K S

901052
noted

USON THE

R E S O L U T I O N S

OF THE

House of Commons

RESPECT TO

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS
AGAINST

the House of Commons

L O N D O N

Printed by W. Nicol, at the

Page Six - P. 1052

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE writer of the following pages is apprehensive, that he may be thought too forward or impertinent, in undertaking to obtrude his own opinions upon the publick, in opposition to those of one great branch of the legislative body of the Kingdom; but he is persuaded that the slightest hints and most superficial observations, especially where the subject is of such universal concernment, may probably tend to excite others of greater judgment and legal knowledge, to enquire more closely into the grounds and reasons of the law, which is to be founded upon these Resolutions of the House of Commons.

It must be noted, that these remarks were put together in much hurry, and instantly sent to the press, for it was thought if they could be of any use it must be from their speedy publication; it is to be hoped then, that a favourable allowance will be made for any defects in point of method, or expression; and in truth the Remarker cannot make himself sure that he hath not misunderstood, or at least not precisely comprehended, some part of the Resolutions; in
this

ADVERTISEMENT.

this respect also he hopes for indulgence, and especially when he declares, that he should not have taken up the pen at this time, and upon this subject, but from a belief that the intended law, will contribute rather, to augment, than to alleviate the general distresses of the unfortunate poor.---At the same time he is led to think, that this law being planned upon so large a scale, it will be very difficult in its execution, and impracticable upon any æconomical principles.

REMARKS

R E M A R K S

Upon the Resolutions of the HOUSE OF COMMONS with respect to the POOR, &c.

[*Vide Resolution 1.*] **T**HAT the laws relating to the poor of this Kingdom are ineffectual to every good purpose, that could be wished, is an allowed truth, but then these laws are of so mixed and so complicated a nature, and the objects of them make up so considerable a part of the body of the people; and besides, such is the dearness of all the necessaries of life, such is the encreasing luxury of the times, and the prevailing spirit of liberty, it is to be feared that the proposed, and indeed perhaps any other material alteration of these laws, may be productive of greater mischiefs than it is designed to remove.

[*V. R. 2.*] In small Parishes or Townships, workhouses are rarely found to be necessary, or useful: the poor are kept at a less expence at their own homes, where they are better reconciled to their condition, and per-

perhaps are of more benefit to the community at large. In this situation too they receive occasional comfort by public doles or charities, and if they are honest and industrious, they seldom fail of meeting with some little assistance from their well-disposed neighbours.

[V. R. 3.] It is certain that very large sums are annually expended in the relief of the poor, but is it equally certain that this arises so much from a defect in the laws now in being as from a want of a proper and judicious exertion of them? This, however may be in general observed, that the money which is now raised for the maintenance of the poor is circulated in the places to which they belong, or in which they reside, and the inhabitants reap the advantage thereby.

The support of every government by taxes, &c. may be deemed a *grievous*, and perhaps *an encreasing burthen*; but then the necessities of the common-weal must be consulted.

[V. R. 4.] When it is here asserted, that a *considerable* part of the money raised for the relief of the poor is expended in *supporting litigations* concerning settlements, some facts were surely stated as a ground for the Committee to form such a resolution as this, but it might not be a difficult matter to shew, that such a sum of money is *not*
so

so expended as to render the interposition of the legislature on *this account*, at all necessary, and especially when it is to bring about a fundamental change in the present system of our poor laws—laws confirmed by long experience, and established by undoubted precedents.

Appeals to the Court of *King's Bench* will be found not to be so frequent, or so very formidable in their consequences as we are taught to believe, for whoever will be at the trouble of looking into that most valuable book, Sir James Burrow's "*Series of the decisions of the Court of King's Bench upon Settlement Cases*," will find, that no more than 221 questions of this kind, were agitated in that Court, within the space of 40 years; that is, about five cases, one year with another, throughout England and Wales. To think of calculating what sum might be annually saved by each township in the Kingdom, even granting that the new law would actually annul every application in future to the above Court, must be allowed to be a ridiculous attempt, the sum would amount to so trifling a matter.

Appeals to the Courts of *Quarter Sessions* are certainly attended with expence, but not such as to create any great alarm, for the doctrine of settlements, being now so clearly explained and so generally understood, these appeals are principally instituted for the purpose

pose of trying and adjudging *facts*, and not the legal *merits* of the question. However, if it was a matter of any great moment, the number of such appeals might be exactly ascertained, by having recourse to the several Records belonging to these Courts of Quarter Sessions in every part of the Kingdom. A Justice of the Peace for the County of *Lancaster*, sometime ago informed me, that he believed, (for he could not then speak positively about the matter) that large County would not, *communibus annis*, produce many more than twenty appeals in a year, and it is questionable whether there are more than double that number in the whole *West-Riding of Yorkshire*, in the same space of time; hence then, from an application of this estimate to the rest of the Kingdom, it may be asked, Where is the mighty public grievance? Is it such a one as to have any weight to induce the Parliament of England to attempt so essential a change in the law as is in contemplation at this time? But after all, if Parishes will ignorantly or wilfully stir up or defend improper suits, it is at their own peril, they only are for the most part the sufferers, and the publick in general have little to do with it.

[N. R. 5.] Was there no provision under the present laws for the infant poor, the propriety of this resolution would be indisputable. What great good can possibly accrue
to

to the publick from the labour of children under seven years of age? What employment can be adapted to the strength and capacity of such tender years? And when they actually do arrive at the full age of seven years, the power that is already lodged in churchwardens and overseers of the poor, with the consent of two justices of the peace of apprenticing such poor children, is surely the best means of providing for them. The inhabitants are the most competent judges, and it is their interest to dispose of these children in a proper manner, and to see they are instructed and maintained in their service. There are besides in many parishes, charitable bequests, and donations, secured under proper guardians and trustees, for the special purposes of cloathing, or educating poor children, or binding them as apprentices, to husbandmen, artificers, manufacturers, and such like.

[V. R. 6.] It is an incontestable truth, that if disputes about settlements and removals of the poor *could* be prevented, the expence attending such litigations might be saved; but he must be possessed of an uncommon degree of foresight and discernment, who can undertake to demonstrate that the intended law will have this effect. Yet if this should really be the case, will it not be likely to produce a variety of other disputes,
of

of a more expensive and troublesome nature ?

The latter part of this resolution seems to throw an oblique reflection upon the tendency of the certificate act, and to intimate that the proposed law would be in part a tacit repeal of that act. But however, some gentlemen may wish to have this law expunged from the statute-book, there are others, who with equal confidence, maintain it to be founded in great wisdom, and to be generally advantageous, as well to the publick as to the poor themselves. But, if upon an application made to two justices of the peace by any person to whom a certificate was refused, such justices should be empowered to summon parish officers, and upon hearing both parties to order such certificate to be granted, or not, as they saw most convenient, the main objections made to this act might be removed.

[V. R. 7. 8.] In consequence of the former resolution, we here see the general sense of the committee, namely, That the establishing of county workhouses will be the most easy and effectual method of maintaining and employing the poor. This then is the important question, a question of such compass and consequence, that it requires the most serious and attentive consideration. Whatever may be supposed to be the spirit and intention of the 43d of Queen Elizabeth, there

there seems to be no necessity to have a retrospect to that statute, it will be sufficient if we observe upon the subsequent resolutions as they arise in their order before us.

[V. R. 9.] In the establishment of a great national police as this may be called, every nerve of government should be exerted to render it as complete as possible, and for this end it is highly proper to enquire into the constitution, &c. of the publick workhouses herein specified : and besides, another great purpose may be answered, that if a minute and spirited enquiry is set on foot, a detection and redress of any abuses that may have crept into these houses, will probably take place.

[V. R. 10.] It is very proper, that those who contribute most to the support of the poor, should be the persons who have the best right to be trusted with the execution of the new law ; but if every man of 100l. per ann. shall think proper to attend the general meetings, and especially upon the commencement of this law (and surely such attendance will at that time be altogether necessary) we may easily figure to ourselves the difficulty, if not the impossibility of having business properly dispatched, in so confused a throng: would it not therefore be advisable, that a committee of gentlemen of known

known abilities, integrity and spirit, should at the first meeting, be elected for the purpose of maturely considering a business of such prodigious moment? and then might it not be proper to report their opinions to the general assembly, at a convenient time, who will be at liberty to take their measures accordingly? But here another difficulty will naturally arise, where will a committee of gentlemen be found *willing* (for surely in a matter of this sort, no good effect can possibly follow to *oblige* gentlemen) to undertake the arduous task? To form, digest and execute the very ground-work of this business, must be the result of infinite labour, and expence of time and thought.

But if it should happen that this mode of providing for the poor by its novelty, or apparent publick good, may induce gentlemen to engage warmly in its support; yet, those who have paid the least attention to the event of many publick institutions, will find some reason to believe, that county workhouses, tho' established under the highest authority, and guarded by the strongest fences, will be likely in the end, either to sink into utter neglect, or to fall into the hands of jobbers and contractors, who alone will profit at the publick expence.

When the Foundling Hospital was first set on foot, it met with the countenance and pro-

protection of all ranks of people; the pulpit founded its encomium, and the press was employed in holding forth its utility throughout the land; it was nursed with the smiles of royal favour, whilst the publick treasure of the kingdom was lavished in its support; but alas! it hath had its day!

The Hospital at *Ackworth in Yorkshire*, would very probably have been dissolved before its time, had it not been for the zeal and benevolence of some neighbouring gentlemen, who were its original supporters; for at last it became difficult to procure the attendance of trustees, even to pass the very accounts. And if this was the case with a charitable foundation, where the objects of it, being helpless innocents, very little trouble or attention on the part of the trustees was required, what may be expected to be the fate of an undertaking of so complex a nature as the conduct of these county work-houses must necessarily be? For who are to be the occupiers of these houses? Persons of all ages, sexes, constitutions and climates: the old and the young, the blind and the decrepid, ideots and lunatics, the dissolute and the distempered poor. But if the eyes of the governors should be thought less necessary to be directed to the internal œconomy of the house, it must be allowed that there will be sufficient employment from *without*. To regulate, to raise, and collect the

the assessments, the constant trouble of liquidating the charge of maintaining the casual poor, to controll the authority that is to be given to the guardians, to reconcile the contrary and clashing interests and opinions of guardians and overseers; and most of all the infliction of penalties and punishments, upon governors, guardians, overseers, &c. for neglect of duty; all these will be found matters of perpetual and perplexing difficulty; and tho' governors should be armed with the full powers of the magistrate, and with every inclination to do their duty, and a perfect knowledge of it; yet they are not bound to possess the patience and perseverance of philosophy: nor can it be expected their whole leisure should be given up to a business of this kind:

[V. R. 11.] By this resolution we perceive that a new set of officers are to be appointed, called *guardians of the poor*: but can these be considered in any other light than as an additional number of overseers for every township? who will be more likely to clog and confound every business, than in any way to contribute to its perfection or improvement.

[V. R. 12.] A treasurer and clerk, a master and matron, must of consequence be appointed to superintend and regulate every family, which is to consist of so promiscuous a multitude; but at the same time it ought not to be

be forgotten, to make very ample provision for apothecaries, surgeons, schoolmasters, nurses and attendants of all kinds, nor should any one of these houses be unprovided with a chaplain, (if indeed such a one can be found, who will content himself with being daily conversant with such a variety of wretchedness,) as the unhappy tenants will assuredly want every supply of spiritual consolation; and it cannot be reasonably expected that the ministers of the several parishes where such workhouses may happen to be placed, should have this charge thrown upon them.

[V. R. 13.] The condition of the poor persons mentioned in this resolution is of itself truly deplorable: unhappy generally are such, to be taken from their own homes, and placed in workhouses even in their own parishes, where yet probably they may have some few friends, or little connexions; but to be hurried away to a considerable distance, to be doomed for ever to associate with strangers, and those the most miserable of their fellow-creatures, beings for the most part of distempered bodies, and too often ferocious minds; a company, whose calamities must necessarily be multiplied and enhanced by their mutual sufferings and complaints; the idea is too melancholy to dwell upon! the mind recoils at it, and the imagination is subdued!

But

But the opinion of that very eminent person, *Judge Blackstone* will stand in the place of a thousand arguments, where speaking of the practice of accumulating the poor in one common workhouse (and by this he alludes only to parochial workhouses, which surely are much less liable to these objections than county workhouses) he saith
" It tends to destroy all domestic connexions, (the only felicity of the honest and industrious labourer) and to put the sober and diligent upon a level in point of their earnings, with those who are dissolute and idle."

[V. R. 14.] It seems by this resolution, that there is to be a power lodged solely in two guardians, of determining who are proper objects to be maintained as *casually necessitous*, and to receive *temporary relief*, in their own parishes, but when it is notorious, that parish officers (and really how can these sort of guardians be considered as any thing more?) are frequently actuated by pique or prejudice; that they are either inattentive to, or ignorant of their duty, or perhaps something worse; will it be prudent to repose so great a confidence in men of this complexion? and it may happen, that when a person shall in their estimation be found guilty of poverty, he will be fortunate enough, if he escapes being immured in a workhouse for life. The poor at present are
in

in good hands; justices of the peace are their proper guardians and protectors; and I am bold enough to say, that the magistrates of this country (nor ought it to be supposed that they are different in any other) will be always found acting upon disinterested and liberal principles; they will be found neither afraid nor ashamed to do their duty, (and especially in the execution of the poor laws) with an humanity, dispatch and firmness, becoming the ministers of justice:

[V. R. 15, 16, 17.] What was remarked under the Fifth Resolution, will in a great measure be applicable to these; however, I beg to observe here, that although the Governours of the *Hospital at Ackworth* took every necessary precaution, to dispose of the children, as apprentices to proper persons, yet it was impossible for them to do it: they had the mortification to see a great number of these unhappy objects, again, literally, *exposed and deserted*.

[V. R. 18.] Here then we find, that the authority which is now properly given to Justices of the Peace, of allowing the accounts of Overseers, is to be transferred to *two Guardians*, who from the reasons stated under R. 14. must be held to be very incompetent judges of the matter.

[V. R. 19.] If the preceding Resolutions are passed into a law, the business here alluded to will follow of course.

[V. R. 20.] If it be thought requisite to invest the Governours with the authority of Justices of the Peace, there surely ought to be a reservation of an appeal elsewhere.

[V. R. 21.] As we are not instructed in what manner this application for assessments is to be made to the Courts of Quarter Sessions, whether by the Governours, or by the respective Parishes, one cannot form any clear judgment of the propriety, or necessity of this application : the present mode of procuring assessments seems to be adequate to every necessary purpose. This however is certain, that the method of keeping accounts and of laying assessments in many country parishes, is so very inaccurate and perplexed, and, to observe nothing of the frauds, or concealments that may possibly arise in stating the real *quantum* of such assessments for the *last seven years*, it will hardly be in the power of Justices of the Peace, at any quarter sessions to dispatch this single business with any satisfaction ; but most of all will every parish think themselves concerned to take special care, that the bench may be fully informed of the true state of their rates, yet so far only perhaps as may
be

be necessary to exonerate themselves, and how can this be possibly effected but by the mediation of Counsel learned in the law? and as one ground of the repeal of the present poor laws is for the good purpose of preventing expensive litigations, will not the frequent applications to the sessions that are required in this business of the assessments only, be likely to draw an expence upon parishes, much more than enough to counter-balance every other that can possibly arise, from suits respecting settlements?

[V. R. 22.] It is not easy to conceive what end can be answered by giving the Justices at the sessions a power to *inspect* the quarterly accounts: the Governours are the only competent judges of them. The production of these accounts here, cannot surely be meant for the purpose of having them recorded in the rolls of the sessions.

[V. R. 23.] Let us *suppose*, and the *supposition* seems not to be an unfair one, that such average sum should not prove to be *equal* to the necessary expences; how is the residue to be raised? by public benefactions, or parliamentary aids?

And here it may not be impertinent to ask another question, whether the *casual* poor are to be supported out of the average sum hereby specified, or by a distinct rate within each parish?

[V.R.]

[V. R. 24.] It is hardly probable that there is any parish where the average sum will be likely to exceed four shillings in the pound, of the annual *bonâ fide* value, of the estates there; but if this is a fact, it seems reasonable that such parish should be eased in some way or another: and indeed as the charge of maintaining the poor is now wholly thrown upon the *landed property*, would it be unjust to expect, when ever a revision of the poor laws may happen to take place, that the *personal estates* should be made assessable to this necessary support of the subject?

[V. R. 25.] This needs no comment.

[V. R. 26.] If the preceding resolutions be substantiated by such facts, and supported by such proofs as to induce the wisdom of parliament to form them into a law, why should this law be subject to a partial operation? Why not universally take place?

[V. R. 27.] When it is left to the direction of two parts in three of the persons qualified as governours, whether the law shall be executed or not; it may with equal reason, be submitted to them, to proportion the number of the county workhouses, for how can these be properly limited, previous to the passing of the act?—A full power certainly

certainly should be given to the governours to borrow money, where an enormous sum will be wanting ; and as the success of the scheme may be very doubtful, very strong security should be provided for the lenders.

[V. R. 28.] The propriety of this resolution is evident enough.

[V. R. 29.] Unless a number of gentlemen will take up a fixed resolution of attending the meetings regularly, (and they must be willing for some time at least, to devote the labour of a week in every month to the business) this establishment cannot be upheld as it ought to be ; for from an *obligation* upon gentlemen to do their duty, under a penalty, or by a proxy, the business will be found to be imperfectly hurried over.

[V. R. 30.] The vagrant act hath now subsisted upwards of thirty years, yet every proposal of explaining and amending this, and indeed any other law, should have its due weight : but it is not suggested by the committee what the explanations or amendments are meant to be. It seems to arise from the want of vigour in the execution of the law, that the practice of begging hath not been long since repressed. For every subject is so far armed with the authority of a peace officer, that he can without any warrant, apprehend

prehend and deliver to a magistrate, vagrants of every denomination.

But whilst persons are found either to be influenced by good motives, or prevailed upon by importunity, to extend their relief, beggars will be always found. Besides, there are such numbers of discharged soldiers and sea-faring men, Irish and Scotch, and others whose settlements cannot be easily discovered, as also the wives, and children of such; there are many too who being lawfully drawn from their homes, have the misfortune to fall into want, or sickness; these or most of these, must of course be passed away as vagrants; county workhouses cannot be meant for their reception. It is chiefly from the apprehension and conveyance of vagrants of this sort, that so much money is annually spent in every county, and which is not likely in any great degree to be prevented.

[V. R. 31.] As there are in most parts of England, *Bridewells and Houses of Correction* already erected, and which must continue for the security of persons charged with felony, breaches of the peace, misdemeanours, &c. what necessity will there be for other prisons as appendages to the general workhouses? These very workhouses alone will be found to create a general disgust and inquietude amongst the lower class of the
 peo-

people: but their suspicions will certainly be heightened, when it is found that *Houses of Correction* are to be annexed as a necessary part of the new establishment; will they not be ready to conclude that the æra of slavery is at hand?

[*V. R.* 32.] It is supposed that this Resolution hath been fully complied with, and that the members of the house, and particularly those who are foremost in promoting the new law,* are in full possession of every information relative to the subject: however, an estimate is here subjoined of the expences that are supposed to attend a single publick workhouse. But this estimate is not set up, as being so exact as it ought to be; it perhaps doth not rate every thing at the greatest extent, nor may every minute article be possibly brought into the account.

* And here it would be disrespectful not to observe, that the publick is under the highest obligations to one Gentleman, Mr. GILBERT, Member of Parliament for *Litchfield*, for his constant assiduity in promoting every law that may be of general service; and who is at this time earnest in his wishes to render the poor laws as extensively useful as it is possible.

The

The expence of buying ground and building a workhouse to contain 600 grown-up persons of both sexes, and 100 children, with an infir- mary, house of correc- tion, and every other necessary convenience, with the furniture of the whole, may be estimated at the sum of 8,000l. which at 5l. per cent. per annum, will be		400	:	0	:	0
Master & Matron, board- ing included - - -	}	100	:	0	:	0
Chaplain - - - - -	}	50	:	0	:	0
Clerks, Treasurer, School- Master and Mistress, and necessary Servants, not being paupers - - -	}	135	:	0	:	0
Annual expences in repla- cing and repairing beds, coverlets, blankets, &c. reckoned at 350 beds	}	35	:	0	:	0
Also annual repairs of buildings, furniture, u- tenfils, &c. - - -	}	35	:	0	:	0
Surgeon, Apothecary and drugs, &c. - - -	}	180	:	0	:	0
Funerals, and occasional child births, rated at	}	20	:	0	:	0

£ 955 : 0 : 0

N. B. Of the objects that these houses will necessarily contain, there must be great numbers constantly sick and diseased: and as vagrants will be so frequently sent there, who are rarely free from some complaint or other; nay further, as it is by these that the seeds of the petechial fever are generally carried into, or kept alive in our prisons, no certain rate can be made of the expences of apothecaries, &c.---it will certainly be a very heavy article.

*An Estimate of Cloathing, &c. One Man,
for a Year.*

	£.	S.	D.
Cloth and trimming for } coat, waistcoat and } breeches, and hat - }	0	11	4
Two shirts, and thread -	0	5	2
Two pair of stockings, 2s. } 4d. two handkerchiefs, }	0	3	7
1s. 3d. - - - - }	0	6	0
Shoes and soaling - -	0	6	0
Washing, at one farthing } per week; or one shilling }	0	1	0
per year - - - - }			
	1	7	1

*An Estimate of Cloathing, &c. One Woman,
for a Year.*

Four caps, 1s. 1d. two } handkerchiefs, 1s. 3d. }	0	7	4
two shifts & thread, 5s. }			

	£.	S.	D.
A pair of stays or boddice, } at 5s. each, one to serve } three years, in one year is }	0	1	8
Two aprons, 1s. 6d. two } pair of stockings, 2s. 4d }	0	3	10
Shoes and soaling - -	0	3	8
Two petticoats, 5 one-half } yards, at 1s 3d per yard }	0	6	10
Short gown or jacket -	0	3	9
Washing, at one farthing } per week, or one shilling } per year - - - - }	0	1	0
		1	8 : 1

N. B. The above materials, especially of the aprons and gowns, are stated to be of the coarsest stuff, and to be made as scanty as possible, but to be decent on a Sunday at least, there may be a difference of a few shillings for each woman annually.

Rent of house, repairs, fer- } vants, &c. - - - - }	955	0	0
Cloathing of 600 grown } up persons, reckoned at } an average at 1l. 7s each } per annum - - - - }	810	0	0
Keeping 600 persons at 2s } 4d per week, or rated } at 6l. a year each - }	3600	0	0
100 children keeping, } cloathing, &c. at 3l. } 15s. per year - - }	375	0	0
	£	5740	0 : 0 : 0

No notice being taken in the preceding estimate of the earnings of the several paupers, it may be observed, that the prime cost of the materials for making cloaths, shoes, &c. are only reckoned; perhaps there may generally be paupers to make them up. As to any profit from a cloth or linen manufactory, to be carried on in the house, very little can be expected: labour of all kinds is at a low rate; the expences of tools and materials, of taking in, giving out, and superintending the work, will be very great, but most of all, the work in these places being imperfectly finished, will seldom prove a saleable commodity: for these and other reasons, except in the trifling article of spinning, and that only in some situations, no advantage can well arise from the labour of these paupers; perhaps indeed they may be occasionally employed upon the roads, or as labourers elsewhere; and yet many great inconveniences will be found to attend this permission of going to work out of the house.

The women who are healthful, being likely to find full employment in managing the different household businesses, in brewing, baking, and making the beds, in attending young children, in making and mending the cloaths of the family, and most of all, in waiting upon the sick and disabled, very little value can be set upon their earnings.

But if it is still contended, that the labour of the paupers *may* produce considerable

profit ; it will appear that no charge is here rated for conveying paupers to and from the houses ; for reinstating such in their own parishes, who may be thought to be able to provide for themselves, by quitting the house : Nothing is reckoned for apprentice-fees with the children, or cloathing them afresh when they are so apprenticed. Besides, it must be an additional charge to parishes, from their officers being obliged so frequently to attend the house, the justices, the sessions, &c. nor can it be asserted that the new law will totally cut of all litigation about settlements, or prevent bastardy, which often draws a great expence upon parishes, in bringing the parties to justice, and defending appeals.

As to the maintenance of the *casual poor*, it hath been found in many places, and at particular seasons, to amount to as great a sum as was expended upon the poor in a parochial workhouse.

But, if after all that hath been said, the institution of *County Workhouses* may still be thought to be the best plan, upon which the poor can be provided for ; one may almost venture to hazard a conjecture, that a greater annual sum will be wanting for this purpose *alone*, in the West-Riding of *Yorkshire*, than the landtax will produce, at four shillings in the pound ; nor need we to take the external policy of the houses into this account.

T H E E N D.